

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05088 101828Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /116 W
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R 101735Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4272

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5088

GENEVA FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: ZONE B DISPUTE

REF: STATE 70749

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVAL CONTAINED IN REFTEL DCM SPOKE WITH AMBASSADOR DUCCI, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT MFA. DUCCI SAID THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE PREPARED A RESPONSE TO THE YUGOSLAV NOTE OF MARCH 30. HE SAID THAT THE MATTER WAS OF SUCH SIGNIFICANCE THAT THE NOTE WOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE CABINET AT A MEETING PROBABLY ON APRIL 11. THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR HAS LEFT TOWN RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY BUT DUCCI SAID HE HAS NOT BEEN WITHDRAW. DCM REITERATED US POSITION BASED ON OCTOBER 5, 1954 STATEMENT AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ITALIANS WOULD CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER IN A COOL STATESMANLIKE WAY. DUCCI SAID HE APPRECIATE OUT POSITION AND PARTICULARLY THE FACT THAT WE RECOGNIZED THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE HANDLED THIS MATTER IN A CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ROME 05088 101828Z

COOL WAY. (IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER

RUMOR WE GOT THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT THE GOI WILL TAKE PAINS TO AVOID ESCALATING THE TEMPERATURE IN THIS AFFAIR.

2. DUCCI ADMITS THAT THE EARLY FORMULATION OF THE ITALIAN POSITION COULD HAVE BEEN MORE FELICITOUS BUT THAT HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAD PREPARED THEIR POSITIONS IN ADVANCE AND WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS EXHIBIT OF NATIONALISTIC FEELING.

3. IN LOOKING TO THE FUTURE DUCCI HAS SAID THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN READY TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT A SETTLEMENT BUT THAT PREVIOUS ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS NEVER HAD TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION TO GRANT DE JURE RECOGNITION IN EXCHANGE FOR OTHER FRONTIER RECTIFICATIONS BECAUSE OF YUGOSLAV INTRANSIGENCE. DUCCI BELIEVES THAT GOI IS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF A SETTLEMENT BUT OBVIOUSLY NOTHING THAT SERIOUS CAN BE DECIDED BEFORE THE DIVORCE REFERENDUM ON MAY 12.

4. DUCCI COMMENTED THAT THE YUGOSLAV ACTION HAS EM-BARRASSED THE SOVIETS AND THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS. HE BELIEVES THAT YUGOSLAV "SORTIE" AT GENEVA DID NOT IMPROVE THEIR POSITION. IN ANY CASE HE NOTED A COMPROMISE HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED ON THE PROBLEM OF THE INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS. HE WONDERS IF THE YUGOSLAVS MAY TRY TO RAISE THE ISSUE AT THE UN BY APPEALING TO THE NON-ALIGNED TO SUPPORT THEM SINCE THEY ARE BEING "ATTACKED" BY AN INDUSTRIAL STATE. DUCCI DID NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY WORRIED BY THIS PROSPECT. VOLPE

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